

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 039488
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:D JOHNSON

APPROVED BY EUR: W. J. LUERS

EUR/EE:C W SCHMIDT

NSC: RHUNTER(SUBS)

D. LPASCOE (SUBS)

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039488

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, YO, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TITO'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ON FEBRUARY 14 TO DELIVER AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT TITO'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER; THE LETTER IS UNDATED.

2. FULL TEXT OF THE LETTER, WITH MINOR EMENDATIONS TO CORREC. SPELLING AND GRAMMAR FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR PRESIDENT: THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR MESSAGES OF CONFIDENTIAL

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JANUARY 26 AND 31, 1978 WHICH I HAVE READ WITH GREAT CONSIDERATION.

I ATTACH THE UTMOST ATTENTION TO YOUR VIEWPOINTS WITH REGARD TO THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, IN PARTICULAR. I APPRECIATE VERY HIGHLY YOUR ENGAGEMENT WITH THIS EXTRAORDINARILY IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THE WORLD'S PEACE. THIS IS EVERYDAY'S CONCERN OF ALL OF US WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LASTING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THIS REGION.

IT IS WITH SATISFACTION THAT I HAVE NOTICED OUR COMMON STANDPOINT THAT THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE IS CRUCIAL FOR THE

SOLUTION OF THE EXISTING CRISIS. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS,
I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT MY PROPOSALS ABOUT THE NEED FOR

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY THE DESIRE THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE-EAST PROBLEM BE MOVED FROM A STANDSTILL.

ON THIS OCCASION ALSO I WISH TO EMPHASIZE MY DEEP CONVICTION THAT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ITS INCORPORATION IN THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS WOULD REALLY HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON A MORE RAPID SOLUTION OF THIS DANGEROUS CRISIS.

AS YOU ARE CERTAINLY INFORMED, OUR FURTHER ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS DERIVE FROM, AS IT HAS BEEN SO FAR, OUR DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE, WITHIN OUR POSSIBILITIES, TOWARDS FINDING A COMPREHENSIVE PEACEFUL, JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION BASED ON THE UNITED NATIONS' DECISIONS AND WHICH IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL THE PEOPLES IN THIS REGION.

I COMPLETELY SHARE YOUR CONCERN OVER THE LATEST DEVELOP-
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MENT AND FURTHER DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

AS IT IS KNOWN TO YOU I HAVE RESOLUTELY ADVOCATED, EVEN EARLIER, AND PARTICULARLY AFTER THE OUTBREAK OF THE ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI CONFLICT, THAT OPEN ISSUES IN MUTUAL RELATIONS AMONG THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT USE OF FORCE AND WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS, THE RELEVANT DECISIONS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT. WE DO SUPPORT ALL INITIATIVES BASED ON THESE PRINCIPLES AND, FIRST OF ALL, THE EFFORTS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, WHICH, IN SPITE OF CURRENTLY VERY UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR ITS SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE, IS, ACCORDING TO OUR ASSESSMENT, AN IRREPLACABLE FACTOR FOR RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF AFRICA. IN THIS RESPECT WE CONSIDER THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES FROM OGADEN AS AN INDISPENSABLE PRECONDITION FOR BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA ON A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THEIR DISPUTE, ALONG WITH MUTUAL RESPECT OF THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OUR CONSISTENT ATTITUDE WITH REGARD TO NON-INTERFERENCE INTO INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND HAVING IN MIND THAT THESE ISSUES CANNOT BE SOLVED BY MILITARY MEANS, WE HAVE POINTED OUT TO THE ETHIOPIAN LEADERS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THE NECESSITY OF RESOLVING THE ACCUMULATED PROBLEMS OF THE COLONIAL PAST,

PRIMARILY THOSE OF ERITREA AND OGADEN, BY POLITICAL MEANS.

IN OUR CONTACTS WITH SOMALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATED THESE ATTITUDES AND WE HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZING THE NECESSITY THAT THE PROBLEMS IN MUTUAL RELATIONS BE SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, IN A PEACEFUL MANNER AND BY RESPECTING THE INTERESTS OF EACH PARTY.

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I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YUGOSLAVIA, IN ITS CONTACTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, AND PRIMARILY IN THE CONTACTS WITH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, AS WELL AS WITH OTHER AFRICAN AND NONALIGNED COUNTRIES, WILL CONTINUE TO ACT PROCEEDING FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED PRINCIPLES.

I WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS TO YOU A FEW WORDS ON THE COURSE OF THE BELGRADE MEETING ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION, CONVINCED THAT WE EQUALLY SHARE THE DESIRE TO BRING IT TO ITS SUCCESSFUL CLOSE.

THE GREATEST MAJORITY OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF THE MANIFESTED DIFFERENCES IN THEIR APPROACHES, ARE INTERESTED IN THE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE BELGRADE MEETING TOWARDS PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF THE FINAL ACT, WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE A FAVORABLE INFLUENCE ON FURTHERING THE PROCESS OF DETENTE AND ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AS A WHOLE.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES DEVOTE GREAT ATTENTION TO THE PROMOTION OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE ON THE FOUNDATIONS JOINTLY ADOPTED BY THIRTY-FIVE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN HELSINKI, 1975. THE BELGRADE MEETING, AS THE FIRST FOLLOW-UP IN THE CONTINUITY OF THE CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION, HAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PLACE AND ROLE IN JOINT EFFORTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT FROM HELSINKI.

YUGOSLAVIA, AS THE HOST COUNTRY AND PARTICIPATING COUNTRY AS WELL, HAS INVESTED SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE OPTIMALLY TO THE FULL SUCCESS OF THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE WORK OF THE BELGRADE MEETING SO FAR HAS CONFIRMED THE FUNDAMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE OF SUCH MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN DEVELOPING THE PROCESS INITIATED AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE

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FINAL ACT.

HOWEVER, ITS FINAL SUCCESS DEPENDS UPON THE READINESS AND ABILITY OF ALL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TO MAKE A DECISIVE EFFORT IN OVERCOMING THE DIFFICULTIES THIS MEETING FACES IN ORDER TO ADOPT A SUBSTANTIAL AND WELL BALANCED

POLITICAL DOCUMENT WHICH WILL, IN FULL MEASURE, REFLECT OUR COMMON INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS, AS WELL AS ALL-ROUND ACTIVITY OF THE BELGRADE MEETING. SUCH A DOCUMENT WILL SERVE AS AN EFFICIENT INSTRUMENT FOR FURTHER ACTIONS OF

ALL PARTICIPANTS IN MORE CONSISTENT AND COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCEPTED OBLIGATIONS. I BELIEVE THAT THE AWARENESS OF THE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL HELP SURMOUNT THE DIFFICULTIES AND BRING THE BELGRADE MEETING TO ITS SUCCESSFUL CLOSE. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH A POSITIVE OUTCOME, IT IS NOT HARD TO PRESUME ALL NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES AFFECTING THE POLICY OF DETENTE, THE RELATIONS IN EUROPE AND BROADER, IN THE WORLD.

I AM CONVINCED, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT IN THIS RESPECT WE SHARE THE SAME POINT OF VIEW AND THAT IN SUCH A SITUATION WE CAN EXPECT WITH CONFIDENCE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION OF YOUR COUNTRY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE BELGRADE MEETING ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION.

I SINCERELY LOOK FORWARD TO OUR FORTHCOMING MEETING IN WASHINGTON, WHICH WILL OFFER US AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE AN EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THESE AND OTHER ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, MY KIND REGARDS AND FRIENDLY WISHES. JOSIP BROZ TITO. END TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 02 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE039488
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/EE:D JOHNSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802118/baaabfbv.tel
Line Count: 190
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: fce021cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3471311
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT TITO'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
TAGS: PDIP, YO, US
To: BELGRADE INFO WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fce021cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014